

WASHINGTON CRITIC

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RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, Editor.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27, 1887.

MORE CONVENTION GOSSIP.

The Minneapolis Tribune extends to the Republican National Committee a column and a half invitation or appeal to select that place for the meeting of the next Republican National Convention.

One of its arguments is that no such convention has ever been held west of the Mississippi River, while Chicago has been thus honored four times since 1860 and Baltimore and Philadelphia once each. The accessibility of Minneapolis from all directions is also set forth in detail. In regard to accommodations, the Tribune mentions about thirty hotels at Minneapolis, St. Paul and Lake Minnetonka, with 4,700 rooms, capable of holding 12,915 guests, besides a hundred smaller hostels, with an aggregate capacity of 20,000 to 50,000.

For a hall in which to meet it would use the audience hall of the Minneapolis Exposition building which can be made to seat 20,000 persons.

Then there are political considerations involved that we are assured ought not to be overlooked. Something must be done to counteract the effects of a Democratic administration to capture the Northwest—something to make the Republicans of the country acquainted with their brethren of the neighboring territory of Dakota and with their claims for admission to statehood.

In what particular way the holding of a National Convention at Minneapolis would make votes enough in Congress to let South Dakota in, if a Democratic majority were disposed to keep her out, the author of the invitation fails to explain; neither is it altogether clear how the proposed convention is going to head off the tirades of Democratic patronage in that direction. But this is a fair sample of the talk indulged in by every locality that wants the honor and emoluments of entertaining a National Convention.

There are present some claims that is represented as being of vital importance a political sense, but which, in nine cases out of ten, parts with all the consequence it ever had within a week after the convention adjourns.

Where there is a number of competing candidates and the question of selection becomes a sectional one, the matter of locality has its influence. It may be in this instance that the desire of our Minneapolis contemporaries to have the convention held west of the Mississippi River is not wholly disconnected from a desire of a West-of-the-River representation on the ticket.

WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

The best, readiest and cheapest way of getting rid of the surplus under present laws is to send it to paying nations, doing a private individual's business, as the government is, who would hold the money, as the Treasury authorities are now doing, would be deemed either a waste or an imbecile—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

Not necessarily "either." If the creditor is satisfied with his securities, sure of the prompt payment of his interest, able to do a prosperous banking business on his debtor's paper and not in need of the money; and if, at the same time, the debtor, though abundantly able to pay all he owes, can find more profitable use for his surplus resources than buying in his notes because they are due, where does the "knavery" or "imbecility" come in?

An arrangement between creditor and debtor, advantageous to both, whereby the relation between creditor and debtor is continued on equitable and amicable terms, implies no dishonor nor any want of business sagacity.

It may be the best thing for the Government to spend its surplus in paying off the National debt, but circumstances are readily conceivable under which it might be the wiser policy to expend it for other purposes. We cannot, at any rate, perceive the particular wisdom of paying off bonds that lie at the foundation of our banking system and that may be funded for a long time at a still lower rate than they now bear, so long as other more urgent requirements, involving large expenditures, remain to be provided for.

If there are no such requirements, other than can be met by the ordinary receipts of the Treasury, would not the reduction of the tariff and a reduction of duties be an even better way of preventing the accumulation of an undue surplus than to keep up war taxes simply for the purpose of gradually extinguishing the National bank system?

Mr. LATHROP was elected Mayor of Baltimore yesterday by a majority considerably larger than he received for the same office in 1883, and double that given to Mayor Hodges two years ago. The combination against him proves to have been decidedly deficient in elements of popular strength, or, what is more probable, in elements of leadership and capacity for organization. Still, the Baltimore Star console the opposition by saying that "the vote cast for the Republican candidate, Mr. Bartlett, was a wholesome compliment to one of our best and most public spirited citizens, whose personal qualities gave greatly increased strength and respectability to a movement which marked its real purposes to a great extent under cover of his good name." The vote of the United Labor party cuts an unspectacular figure in the returns, and must have been captured by the Democratic managers.

"What we call Civil-Service Reform," says Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, in announcing his intention to support

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

A STORY OF THE GOLDEN AGE.

By James Baldwin, author of "The Story of the Story," etc. Illustrated by Howard Pyle. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

In going back to the Homeric period for the scenes and incidents of his latest production, Mr. Baldwin makes a bold and original venture. His object is not only to depict the possibilities of old Greek life, but to pave the way for a more enjoyable reading of Homer. The hero of the Odyssey is his hero, and the various legends relating to the raising of the Trojan war have been woven into a continuous narrative, ending where Homer's story begins.

Translated from the German by Harriet C. Powell. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. For sale in Washington by Robert B. Taylor, 405 Pennsylvania Avenue.

THE MODERN VIKING. The Concluding Part of the Viking Series. By John G. Powell. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. For sale in Washington by Robert B. Taylor, 405 Pennsylvania Avenue.

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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER.

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